

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 12, and 22 have been amended to recite providing a list of one or more VOD clip metadata search attributes, receiving user input specifying such VOD clip metadata search attributes for selected VOD clip categories; refining the search results of these categorized VOD clips according to the specified VOD clip metadata search attributes and automatically creating composite VOD clip from this refined list of VOD's. These amendments are supported by the specification as filed, for example at: Fig. 4-6 and ¶ 20, 31-35. No new matter is being added.

The present claims are patentable over the combination of Begeja et al. (U.S. PGPUB 2003/0030752) and Holtz et al. (U.S. Patent 6,760,916), because neither of the references teaches or suggests features such as those highlighted above.

Begeja describes a scheme in which pertinent segments of multimedia assets are extracted and stitched together for presentation to a viewer. Selection of the segments is made on the basis of viewer profile information, which specify criteria for searching the available multimedia assets, and other viewer-specified criteria. In order to aid the search process, the multimedia assets are categorized using metadata.

Missing from this scheme, however, is any presentation of VOD clip (or multimedia asset) metadata search attributes, which attributes refine search results of one or more VOD clips corresponding to respective VOD clip categories, as claimed. While metadata descriptions of multimedia assets may be used in the categorization process, such attributes are not presented in any fashion, for user selection or otherwise.

Holtz describes a system in which a user customizes a presentation by selecting categories of content and various parameters thereof. However, Holtz does not suggest refinement of categorized search results based on user selected VOD clip metadata search attributes. Hence, even if the teachings of Holtz were combined with those of Begeja, at best one would arrive at a

scheme which allowed for user selection of categories of content and various parameters thereof and the creation of composite multimedia assets based on those selections, but that scheme still would not provide, via a set top box, a list of one or more VOD clip metadata search attributes, each of the VOD clip metadata search attributes refining the search results of one or more VOD clips corresponding to a respective one of the VOD clip categories, as claimed.

Consequently, all of the present claims are patentable over Begeja even in view of Holtz.

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Respectfully submitted,
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